

REMARKS

Claims 4, 6, 10, 12, 16 and 18 have been cancelled. Thus, Claims 1-3, 5, 7-9, 11, 13-15 and 17 are currently pending in the present application, of which Claims 1-2, 7-9, 11 and 13-14 have been amended.

The phrases "said final netlist list" in Claims 2, 8 and 14 have been changed to "said final circuit netlist file" to be consistent with their respective independent claim. Thus, the claim objection is believed to be overcome.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 1-3, 5-9, 11-15 and 17-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicants respectfully traverse such rejection insofar as it might apply to the claims as amended herein.

The contents of Claims 4, 10 and 16 have been incorporated within Claims 1, 7 and 13, respectively. Thus, the § 101 rejection is believed to be overcome.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 4-5, 7, 10-11, 13 and 16-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *McIlwain et al.* (US 6,668,362). Applicants respectfully traverse such rejection insofar as it might apply to the claims as amended herein.

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that Claims 2-3, 6, 8-9, 12, 14-15 and 18 would be allowable if they were rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Because the contents of Claims 6, 12 and 18 have been incorporated within Claims 1, 7 and 13, respectively, the § 102 rejection is believed to be overcome.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1-3, 5, 7-9, 11, 13-15 and 17 are currently pending in the present application. For the reasons stated above, Applicants believe that independent Claims 1, 7 and 13 along with their respective dependent claims are in condition for allowance. The remaining prior art cited by the Examiner but not relied upon has been reviewed and is not believed to show or suggest the claimed invention.

No fee or extension of time is believed to be necessary; however, in the event that any addition fee or extension of time is required for the prosecution of the present application, please charge it against IBM Deposit Account No. **09-0456**.

Respectfully submitted,



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